

REMARKS

The abstract has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

Claims 1-36 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5, 17, 19-23, and 35 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Messenger (US 4,191,250) and claims 1-3 and 5-36 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kluth et al. (US 5,992,250).

Independent claims 1 and 19 have been amended herein to more clearly set forth the scope of the claimed invention. Accordingly, claims 3 and 21 have been canceled. Other claims have been amended to correct dependencies and typographical errors.

Claims 1 and 19 now clearly distinguish over the prior art and are not anticipated thereby. Neither Messenger nor Kluth et al. discloses the invention as claimed wherein an alternative path *conduit* is disposed exterior to the casing string. The cable 17 of Messenger, although located exterior to the casing string, is not a conduit capable of deploying a sensor therein, and the conduit 1635 of Kluth et al. is located on the interior of the casing string 1631.

It is respectfully submitted, then, that claims 1, 2, 4-20, and 22-36 now in the application are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2475.

Respectfully submitted,

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